

Committee Notes – Joint Meeting
Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID
December 11, 2014
Salvation Army The Way In

Attendance: **HED Committee Members present:** John Tronson, Monica Yamada. Not present: Carol Massie, Chad Lewis, Derrick Malec. **SVBID Committee Members present:** Fred Rosenthal, Fabio Conti, Not present: Elizabeth McDonald, Anthony Bell. **Liaisons:** Deputy City Attorney Jackie Lawson and Vanessa Alvarado; Mike Harkins, Bill Farrar, Steve Seyler, Andrews International. Deputy Santiago Robles, and Deputy Fulkerson, LASD. Lt. Rich Gabaldon, and Sgt. Osbaldo Ramos, LAPD. Staff: Kerry Morrison, Joe Mariani Jr., Hollywood Property Owners Alliance. Guests: Mike Arminio, LA Film School; Frank Babich, My Friends Place; Karen Weiner, The Way In; Richard Wycoff, US Security.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Fred Rosenthal at 10:15 a.m
- II. Public Comment: There was no public comment. Karen Weiner from The Way In/Salvation Army welcomed the members of the committee and explained about the history of the facility and the different uses that are housed on the Salvation Army property.
- III. Meeting Notes: The committee reviewed the meeting notes from their October 9, 2014 meeting.
- IV. Reports

A. Report from Andrews International: Steve Seyler presented highlights from the report that was prepared for the period 10-6-14 to 11-30-14. In particular he noted that arrests are up only slightly, by 20 at this point compared to last year. Calls for service are down by 212 and they have responded to a total of 4,405 for the year. He walked the committee through the report, and highlighted some key activities. In the area of homeless outreach, he pointed out various situations where the officers tended to individuals who were in medical need on the sidewalks of the BID and secured paramedic transport. One individual, who was discovered without shoes and remains anonymous, had apparently been given a one way ticket from Washington. She said her child had been taken away from her. BID Patrol is attempting to build rapport with her to help her.

B. Report from LAPD: Lt. Gabaldon reported that GTA and burglaries are up 40 and 30 percent respectively. Certain cars are targeted, and it appears cars are being used for transportation, and not necessarily for parts. Burglaries are occurring in multi-family housing complexes where people are not securing their units. LAPD is planning a plain clothes detail to deploy at night to try to deter car thefts and identify suspects. Sgt. Ramos commended the BID Patrol for their assistance lately with respect to back up and crowd control associated with first amendment protests and a recent officer-involved-shooting incident at Hollywood & Highland intersection.

C. Report from LA Sheriff's Department: Deputy Robles reported that there has been a spike in robberies and thefts on the Red Line, particularly in the morning when people may be sleeping on the train. He also reported that there will now be two bus riding teams assigned to protect busses in the system

D. Neighborhood Prosecutor: Jackie Lawson reported that because of realignment and anticipated impacts of Prop 47, the city council had approved the hiring of eight additional prosecutors in the city attorney's office. Lawson also commended an Andrews officer who wrote a thorough report on a serial trespasser at Hollywood & Highland, which resulted in a plea deal. She mentioned that she has been quite busy seeking convictions for transients who are committing crimes along Hollywood Boulevard, some with significant past records. She also introduced Deputy City Attorney Vanessa Alvarado who has been assigned

to a portion of Hollywood which is designated as the Byrne Justice/Promise Neighborhood. Alvarado is funded by a grant secured by the Youth Policy Institute for the Promise Neighborhoods. She is working on nuisance abatement initiatives.

V. New Business

A. “City of LA Sidewalk Vending Ordinance: Morrison reported that the city’s Economic Development Committee held a hearing on December 2, 2014 on the concept of creating a sidewalk vending ordinance for the city. Morrison drafted a letter to submit to the city that essentially suggested that a “one size fits all” ordinance to apply equally to all parts of the city was not appropriate, and that communities should have the option to opt out of such an ordinance. However, she said she would bring back specific policy language to the board meeting, in order to have a more specific policy recommendation to submit to the city. Generally, members of the committee were not enthusiastic about the prospects for such an ordinance in Hollywood for the following reasons:

- Sidewalks are too small or busy to accommodate vending carts
- Vending carts compete with legitimate brick and mortar businesses in the BID (similar to concerns with food carts)
- Cash transactions are subject to abuse, and tax evasion
- City has a hard time enforcing ordinance now

B. Homeless Outreach budget allocations for coming year: Morrison reported that traditionally at the end of the year, the Hollywood board allocates remaining funds from its security contingency budget to assist homeless outreach efforts with some of the partners in Hollywood (notably PATH and The Center at Blessed Sacrament). This year, in addition to these two, she has been researching the prospect of securing an Americorps member to serve as a dedicated homeless outreach person for Hollywood. This person would be embedded in the BID patrol, and would also interact with PATH and The Center. The committee was generally supportive of this idea. It will be brought to the full board at the December 18 meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Public safety cameras: Morrison reported that volunteers have been secured from both BIDs to work with LAPD on brainstorming relative to the expansion of the public safety camera system in 2015. The volunteers who will work with LAPD on this planning include: Hollywood Board – John Tronson, Chad Lewis and Mark Echeverria. Sunset Board: Brian Folb, Arthur Stroyman and Fred Rosenthal.

Joe Mariani reported that the Amoeba camera is now up and running so the entire system is in place.

B. Public Records Requests: Morrison reported that an individual in the neighborhood, Mr. Adrian Riskin, has submitted numerous public records requests for various materials that relate to the BID’s security program, including emails, logs relative to visits to or calls from the city library, and video tapes. Morrison reported that legal counsel is helping to sift through these numerous requests to help staff be responsive.

VII. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.